

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A common rail accordingly to claim—2_9, wherein the tubular body ~~portion~~ is formed of a carbon steel pipe for pressure piping or a stainless steel pipe.

5. (currently amended) A common rail according to claim—2_9, wherein the tubular body ~~portion~~ has a thickness of 3 to 15 mm.

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (new) A common rail comprising:

a short metal tubular body having opposite first and second ends and a thick tubular wall extending between the ends, the tubular wall having opposite inner and outer circumferential surfaces, a plurality of through holes formed through the tubular body from the inner circumferential surface to the outer circumferential surface at locations between the opposite first and second ends of the tubular body;

first and second metal caps fit and bonded in the tubular body in proximity to the respective first and second ends, the first and second ends of the tubular body being caulked inwardly for engaging portions of the respective first and second caps;

a securing flange mounted around and bonded to the outer circumferential surface of the tubular body in proximity to the first end thereof; and

a plurality of metal branch connectors fitted and bonded to the tubular side wall at the respective through holes therein.

10. (new) A common rail accordingly to claim 9, wherein the second end of the tubular body is squeezed to define a diameter smaller than a diameter existing at the first end of the tubular body.

11. (new) A common rail according to claim 9, wherein the securing flange is substantially planar and projects out from the tubular body.